



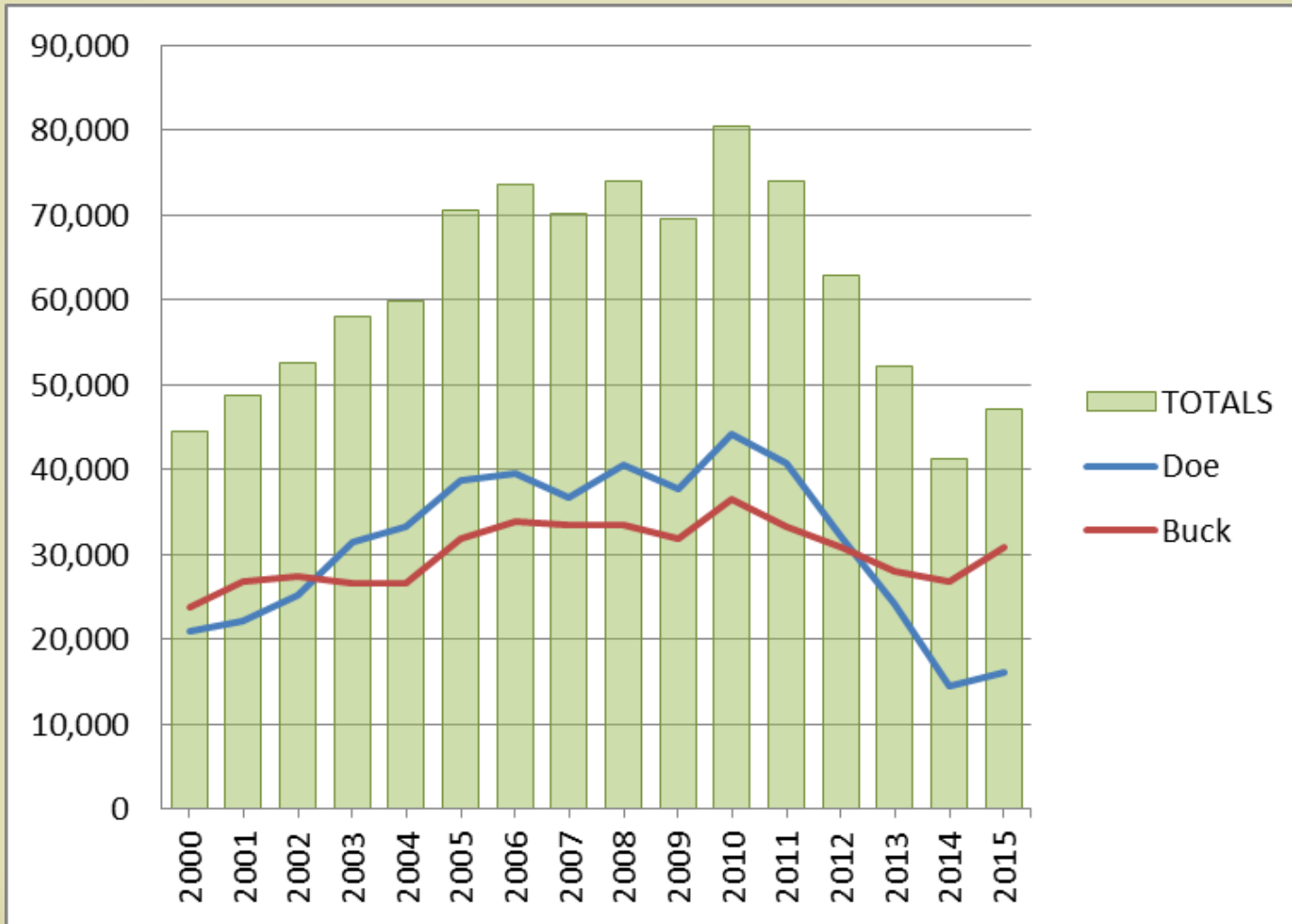
SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH & PARKS

Deer Management Plan Stakeholder Group – Meeting # 3



Antlerless Deer Management

White-tailed deer





Antlerless Management – Recent History

- Prior to 2005 all antlerless licenses issues at the firearm unit level
 - Firearm, Youth, Archery antlerless, and Muzzleloader antlerless



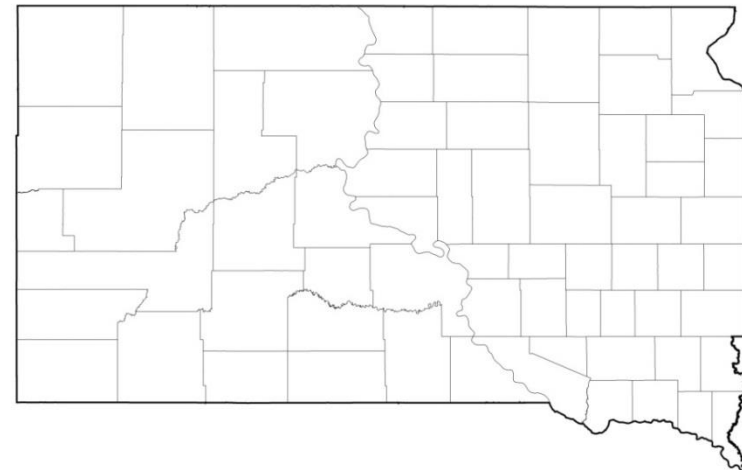


Antlerless Management Recent History

- As deer populations increased in the late 1990s and early 2000s, most deer units had unsold licenses
 - To increase license sales, hunter participation, and ultimately antlerless deer harvest, the Department modified archery, muzzleloader, and youth antlerless units
 - Changed to statewide license in 2005
- The change to statewide units, along with high deer densities and other regulation changes, resulted in increased license sales and harvest

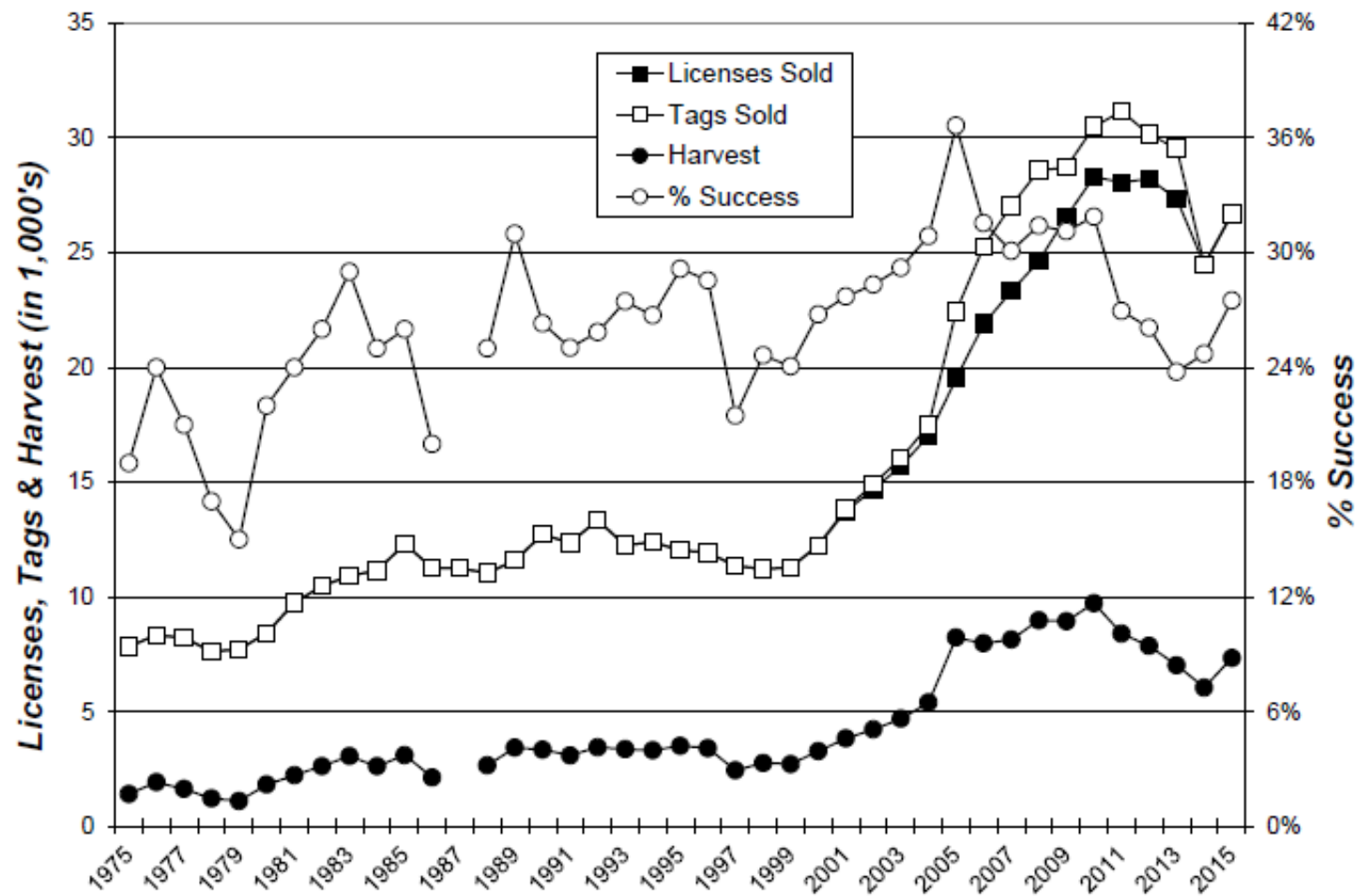
Youth Deer Antlerless

YOD-ST1





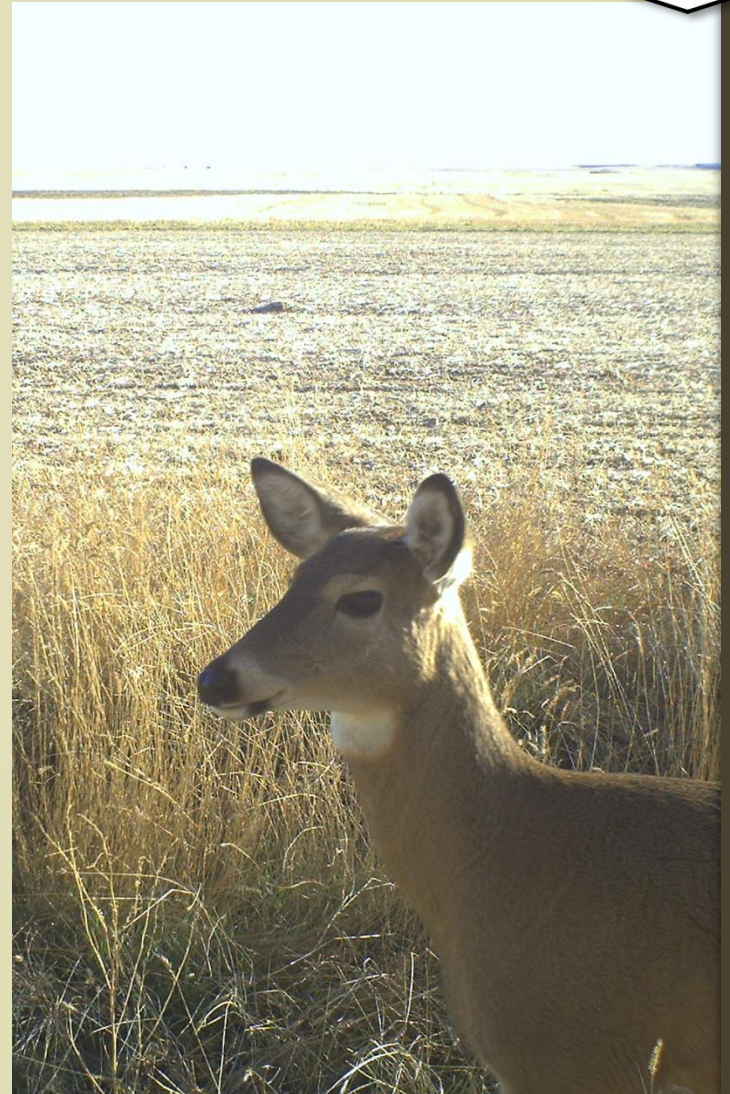
Archery Deer 1975-2015





Antlerless Management Recent History

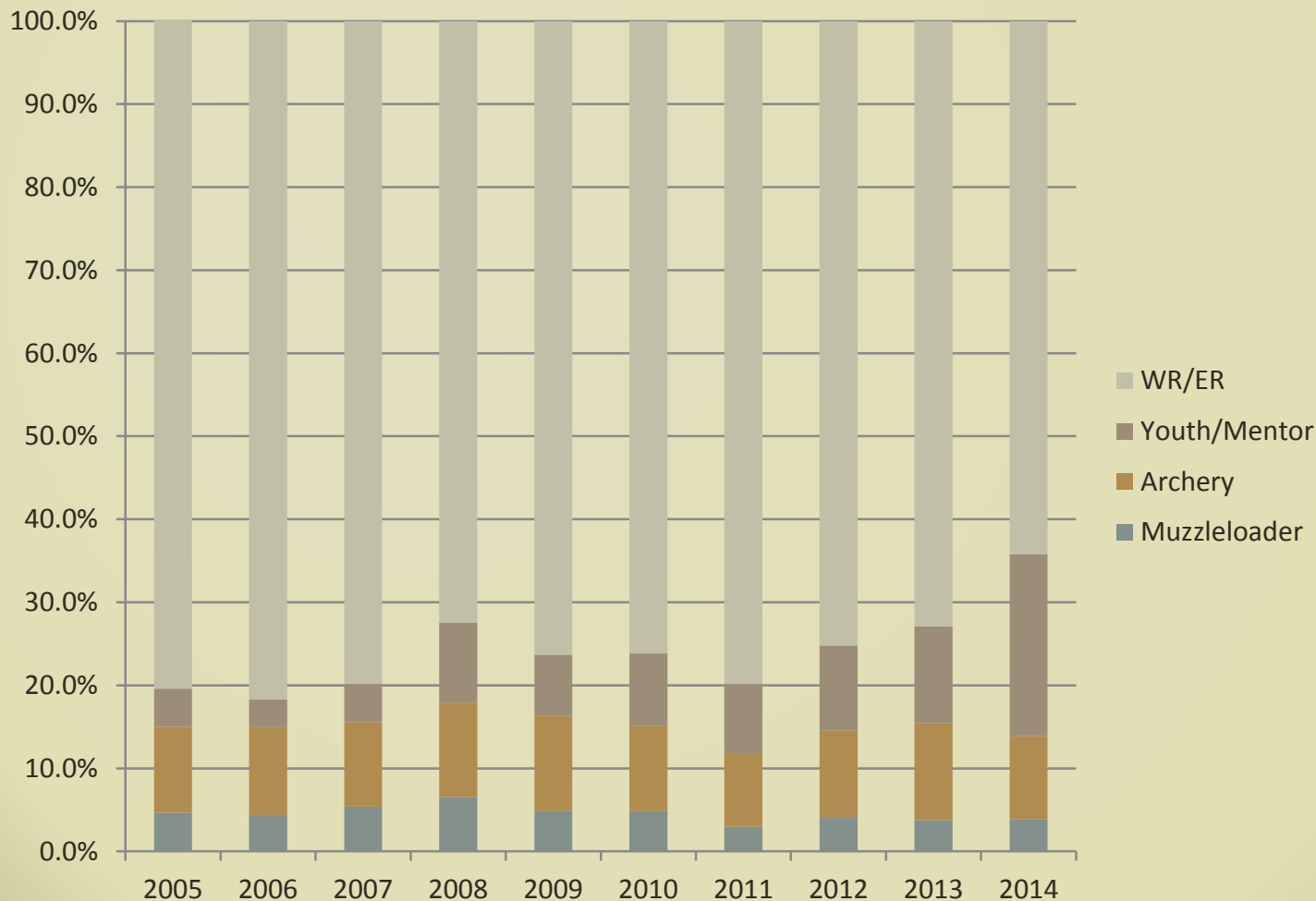
- Liberal harvest regulations were appropriate when deer populations were high
- But record harvest, 3-4 severe winters, and substantial EHD reduced deer population densities below management objectives
- Statewide antlerless units did not allow for necessary management of harvest distribution
 - Statewide Units modified



Antlerless Whitetail



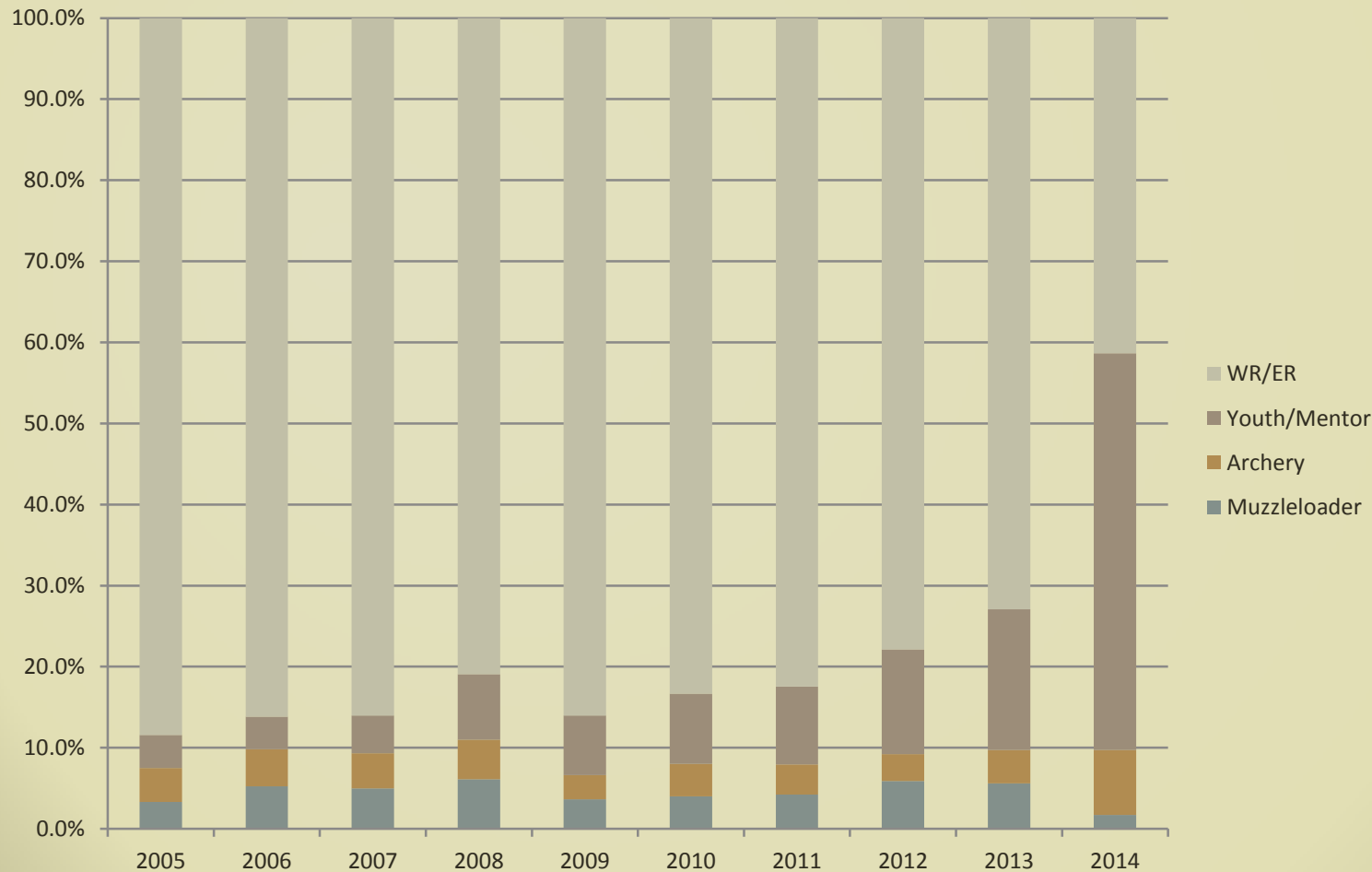
- Whitetail harvest %



Antlerless Mule Deer



- Mule Deer harvest %





Zone Management Strategies for Antlerless White-tailed Deer Harvest

Population Objective	MAINTAIN OR DECREASE-----INCREASE	
TOOLS	MODERATE - LIBERAL HARVEST -----RESTRICTIVE HARVEST	
Firearm License Numbers	Moderate to Liberal May have leftover licenses after 3rd draw	Limited No leftover Firearm licenses after 3rd draw
Firearm License Types	Single, Double, and Triple Tag Licenses Antlerless-only Licenses Available	Single-tag Licenses only No Antlerless-only Licenses ¹
Firearm Late Season	9-day Late Season - East River only	Closed: No Antlerless Licenses Issued ¹
Youth Deer	1 Single-tag License	1 Single-tag License
Archery Antlerless Deer	1 Single-tag License	No Licenses
Muzzleloader Antlerless Deer	1 Single-tag License	No Licenses
Landowner Free Antlerless Deer	Up to 2 antlerless whitetail licenses ²	No Licenses

Antlerless Seasons 2016



Youth – statewide

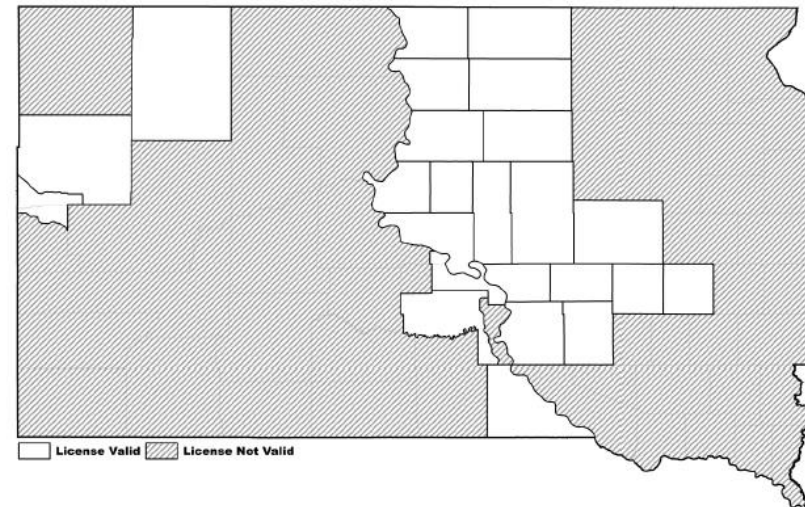
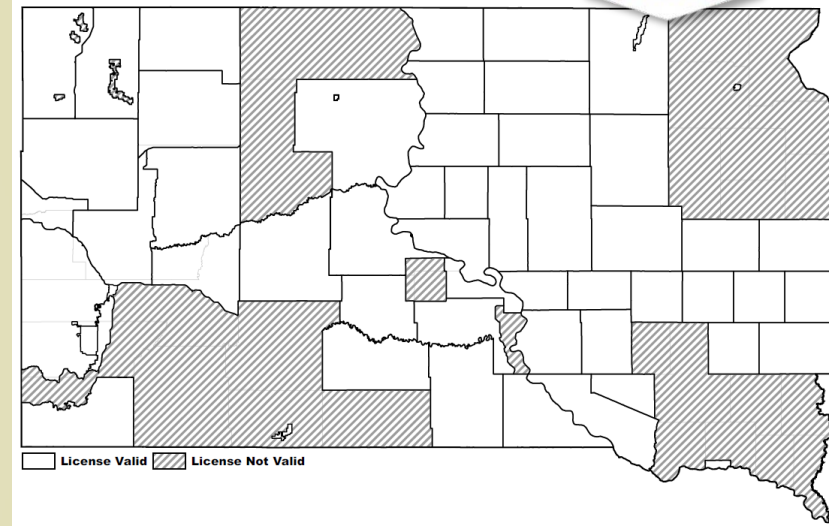
- no changes

Archery and Muzzleloader

- Changes based primarily on availability of antlerless firearm licenses
- Antlerless whitetail only

Free Landowner Antlerless Licenses

- SDCL 41-6-19.8
- ARSD 41:06:01:13 changes based on availability of multiple tag antlerless firearm licenses.
- Antlerless whitetail only



Antlerless Deer Management



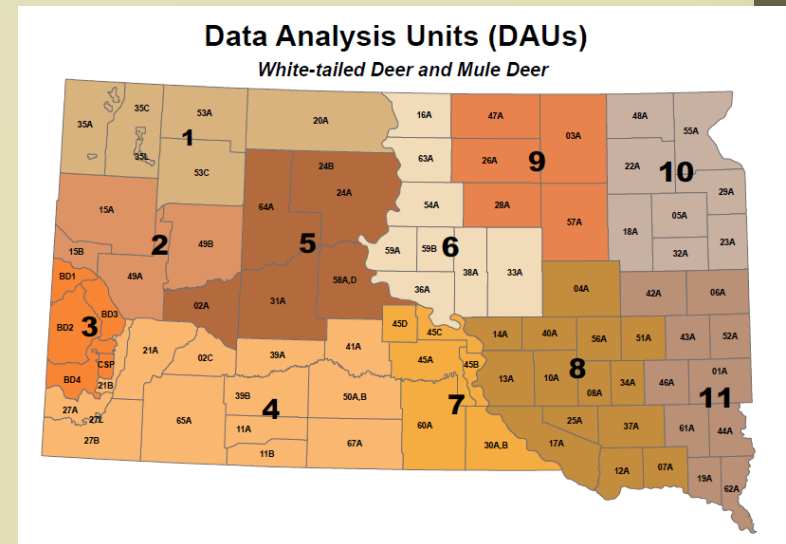
- **Current Harvest strategies**

- Maintaining “statewide” antlerless units while closing areas according to management strategies
- Only antlerless whitetail allowed
- Antlerless mule deer licenses unavailable
 - strategies not interchangeable...

- **Future Antlerless Management Strategies**

- No change
 - Need to address WTD vs. MD
- Manage at firearm unit level
- Manage at DAU unit level
- Others....

- Any future strategy must allow for species-specific management



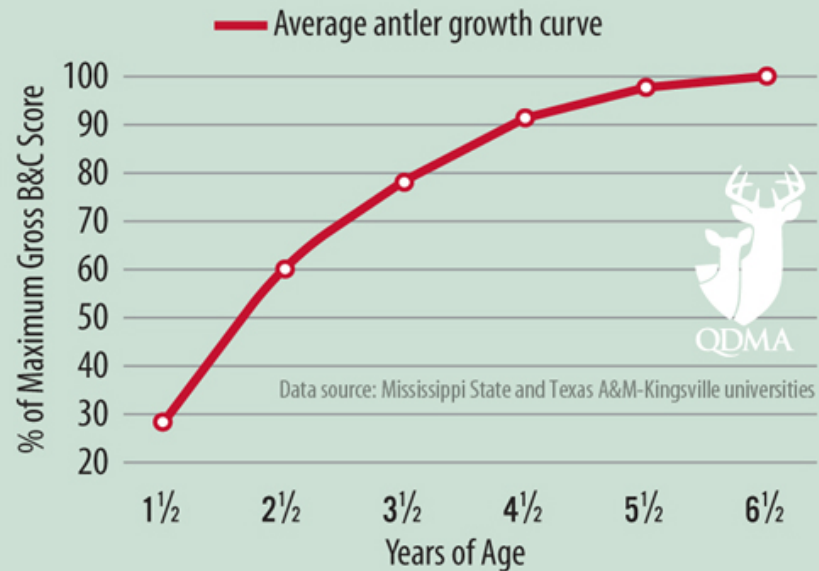


Trophy Buck Management



Trophy Buck Management

- Quality vs. Quantity
- What affects buck size?
 - Genetics
 - Nutrition
 - Age



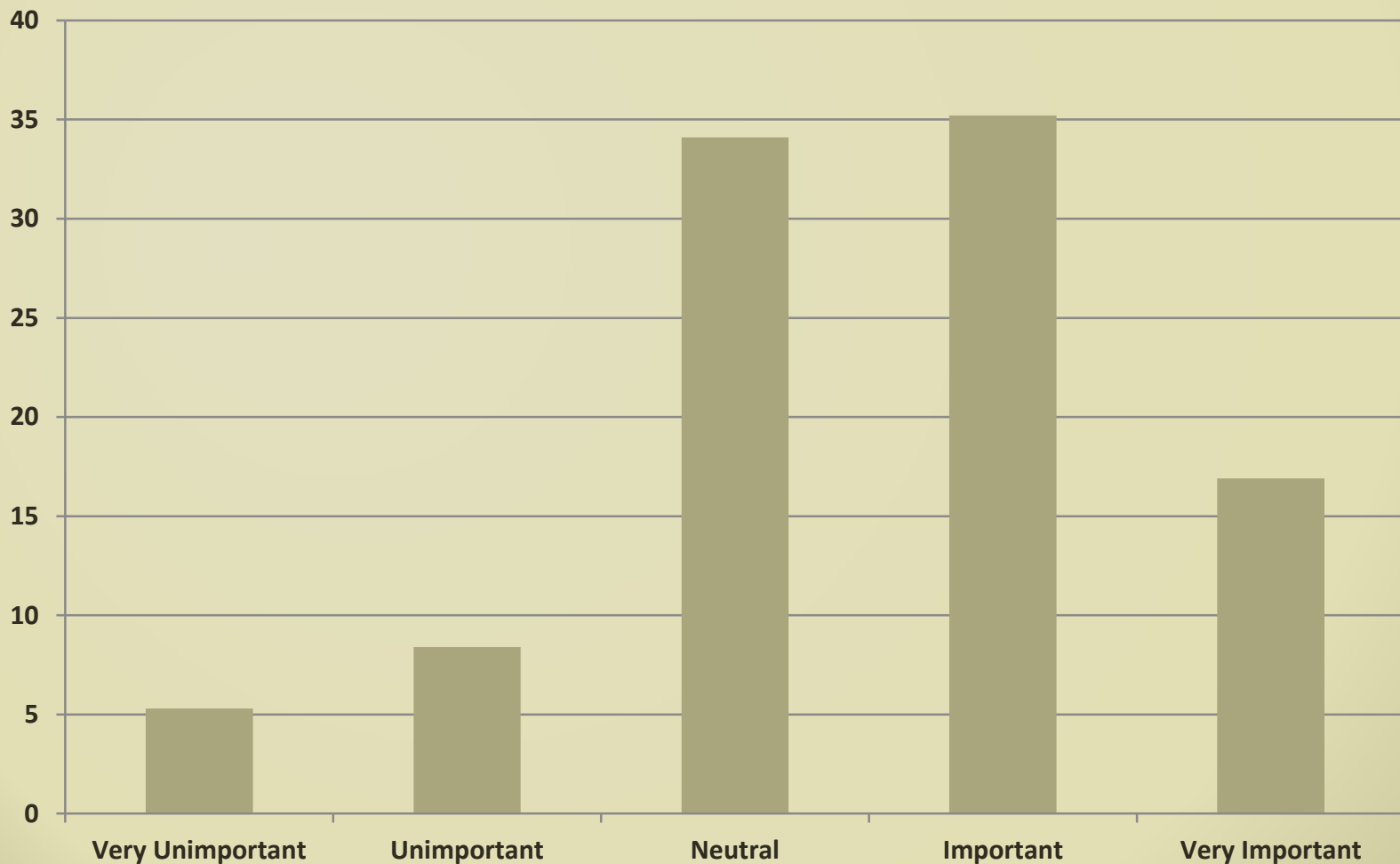
- What do hunters want?
 - More deer or bigger deer?
- SDGFP Public Opinion Survey Results

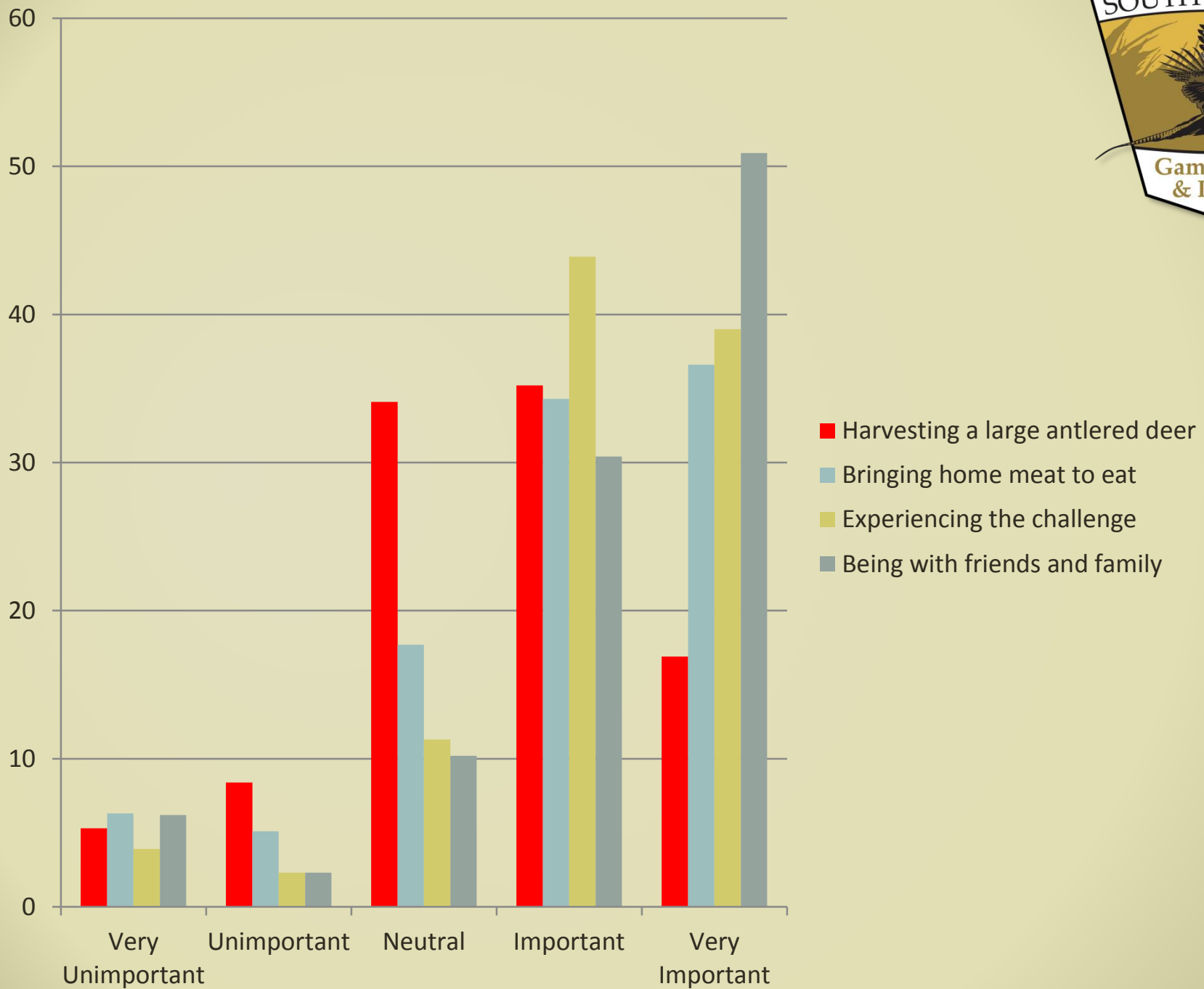
Hunter Survey 2016

- why people deer hunt -



Harvesting a large antlered deer







Trophy Management Techniques

1. Antler Point Restrictions (APRs)

- Harvest regulations that limit buck harvest to deer that meet specific antler criteria
- WAFWA Mule Deer Working Group – “... antler point restrictions result in no long-term increase in either the proportion or number of mature bucks, or the total deer population.”
- Similar opinions but more debate on whitetail APRs

2. Season structure and buck vulnerability

- Season dates and lengths

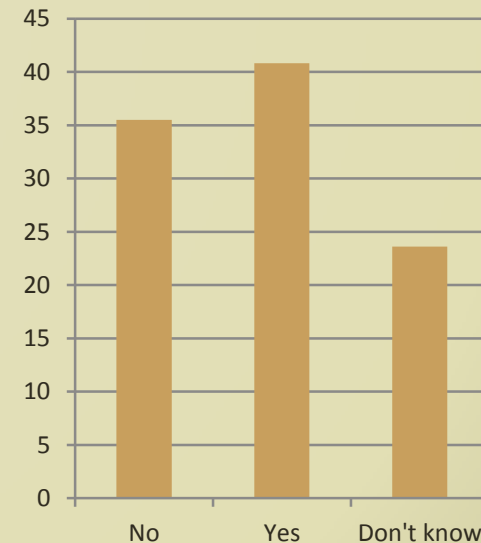
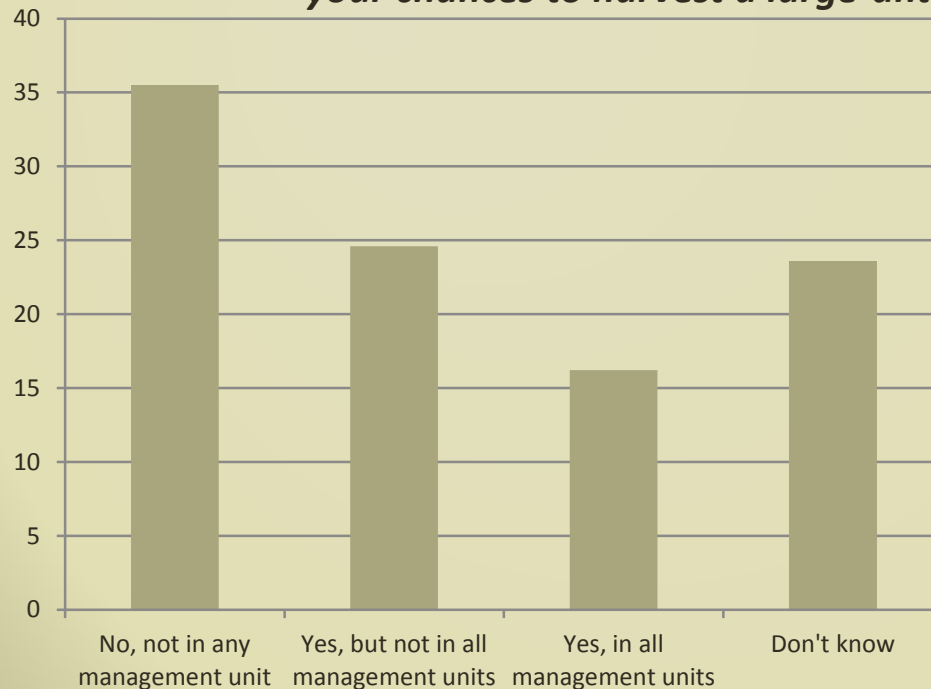
3. Limited licenses



Trophy Management in SD?

- Current deer management mostly directed towards **Maximum Hunter Opportunity** while addressing social tolerances

- Private land 80%
- Public Opinion
 - Hunter Survey – *“would you be willing to hunt less often if it increases your chances to harvest a large-antlered buck when you have a license?”*





Trophy Management in SD?






- **Black Hills deer seasons**
 - 1996 – most recent APRs and limited licenses
 - 2007 – removed APRs, modified license types
- **All Firearm licenses limited (~85% of harvest)**
- **Other seasons unlimited**
 - Unlimited buck license numbers and unlimited area
 - Archery
 - Unlimited buck licenses but limited area
 - Landowner own land
 - Limited buck licenses but unlimited area
 - Muzzleloader
 - Special buck (private land only)

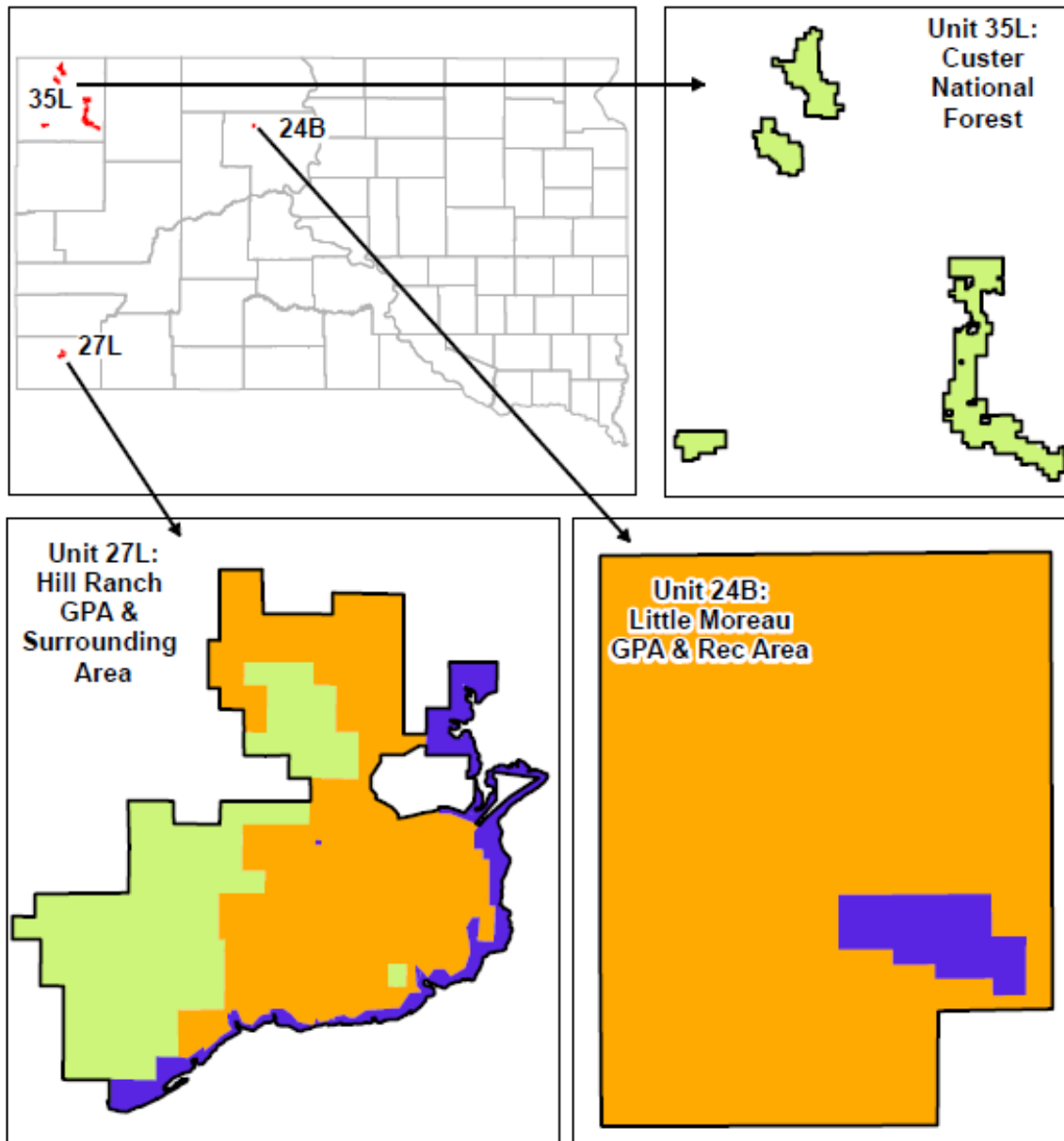


Trophy Management in SD?

- **Limited Access Units**
 - 3 units in South Dakota (out of 86 management units)
 - 24B – Little Moreau Rec Area (2,978 acres)
 - 27L – Hill Ranch GPA (10,130 acres)
 - 35L – Custer National Forest (72,600)
 - 100% land public within each unit
 - Firearm licenses limited
 - other user groups not affected
 - Quality management not trophy management

Legend

-  Parks and Recreation Areas
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  Unit Boundary
-  Game Production Areas
-  Custer National Forest





Limited Access Units

- **Hunter Success 2015**

- LAU average = 83%
- West River = 61%

- **Hunter Satisfaction 2015**

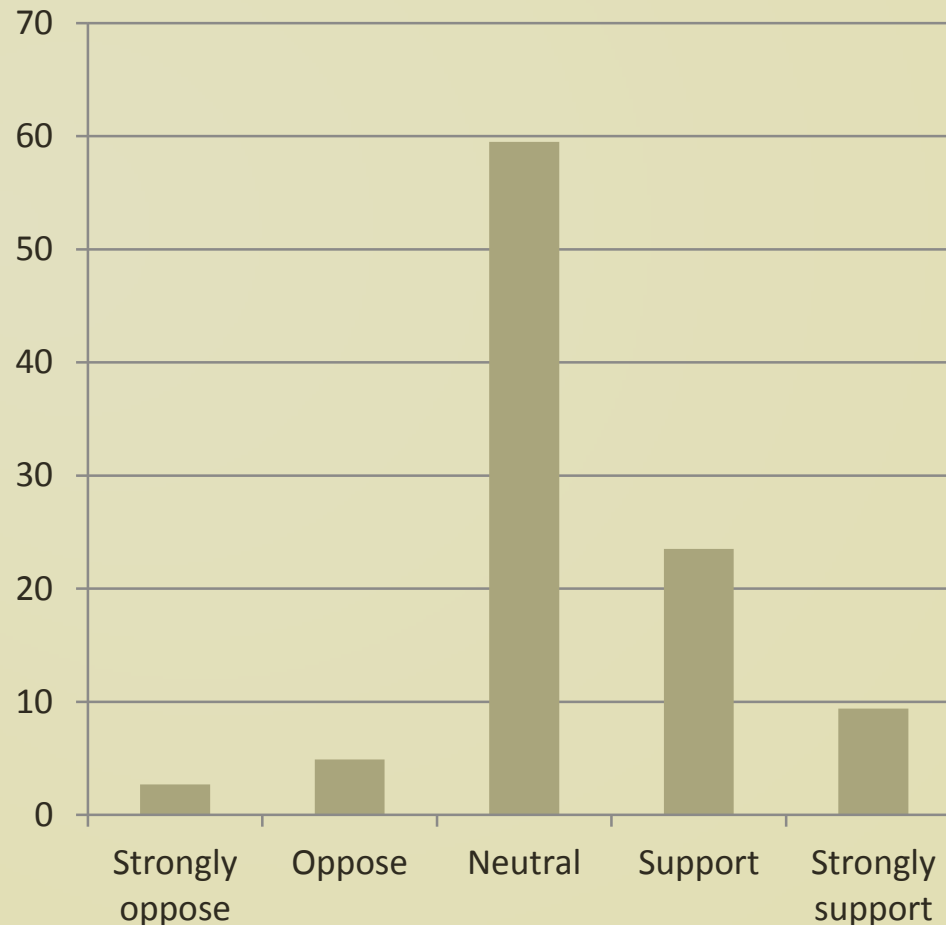
(1-7 scale, 1 represents very dissatisfied, 7 very satisfied)

- LAU average = 5.76
- West River average = 5.27

Hunter Opinion Survey - LAUs



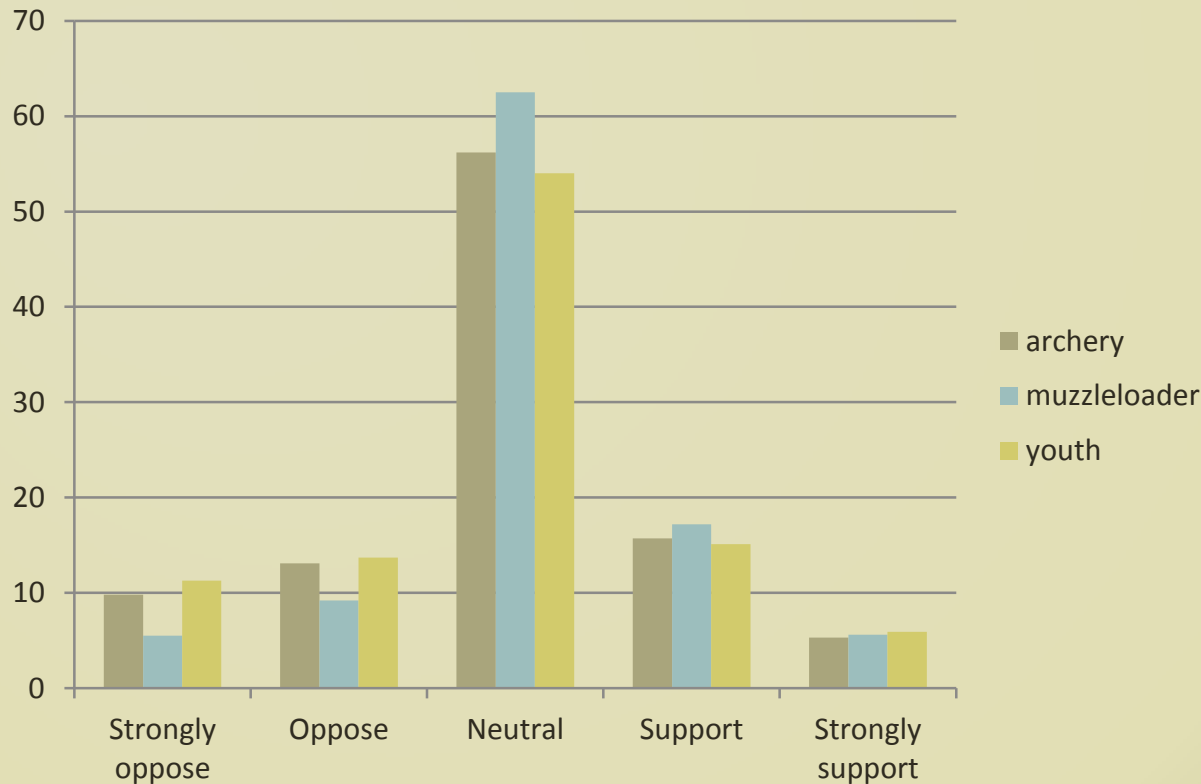
- How strongly do you support or oppose limiting the number of firearm licenses in Limited Access Units?



Hunter Opinion Survey - LAUs



- How strongly would you support or oppose limiting the number of available permits in LAUs for archery, muzzleloader, and youth deer seasons?





LAU Hunter Numbers

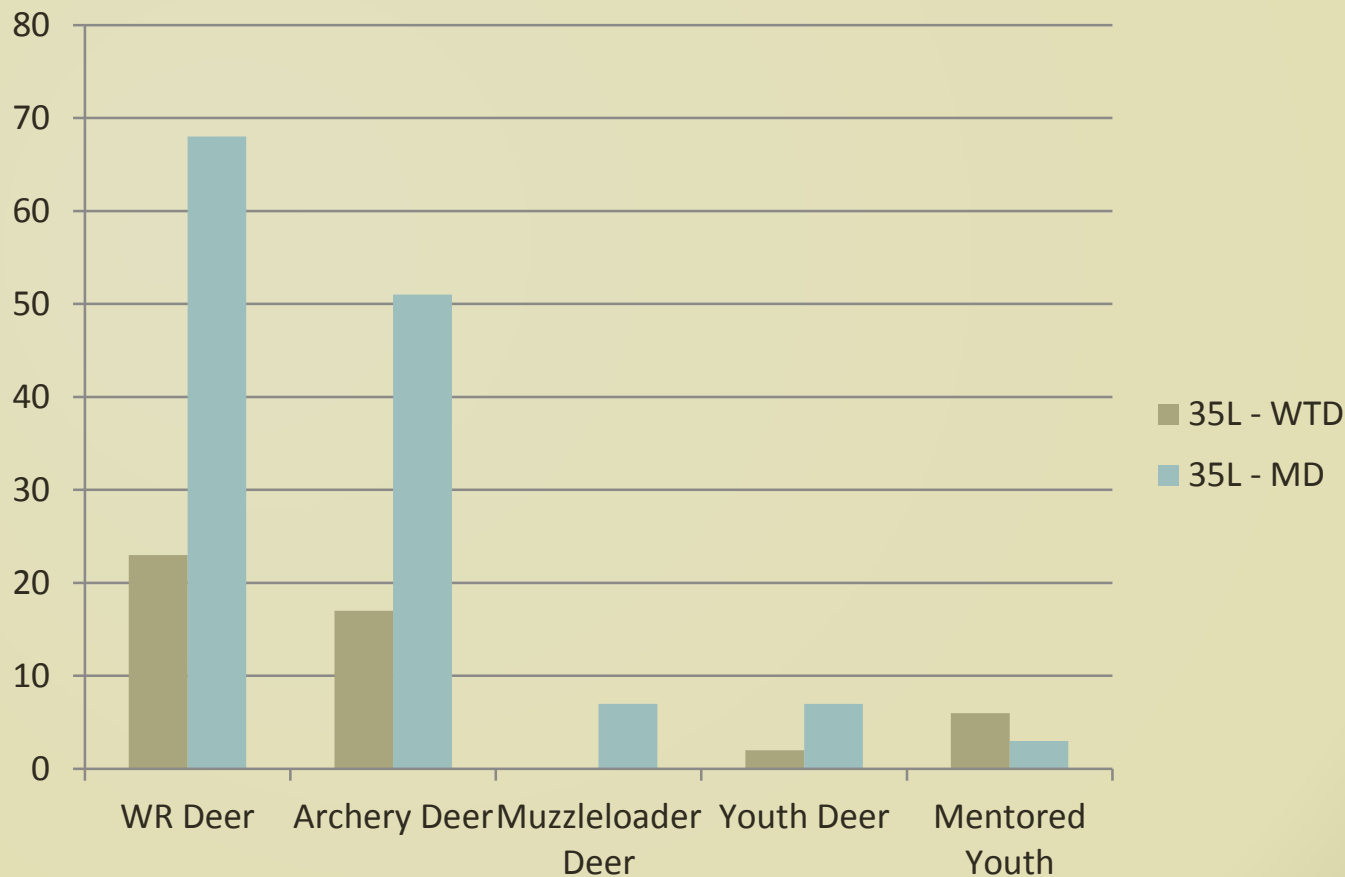
- Access Permits

2015 Licenses & Permits in Limited Access Units (Issued/Available)

Limited Access Unit	Firearm Licenses	Archery Permits	Muzzleloader Permits	Youth Permits
Custer National Forest (35L)	108/108	453/unlimited	56/unlimited	26/unlimited
Hill Ranch (27L)	17/17	167/unlimited	31/unlimited	17/unlimited
Little Moreau (24B)	22/22	115/unlimited	43/unlimited	10/unlimited

Harvest

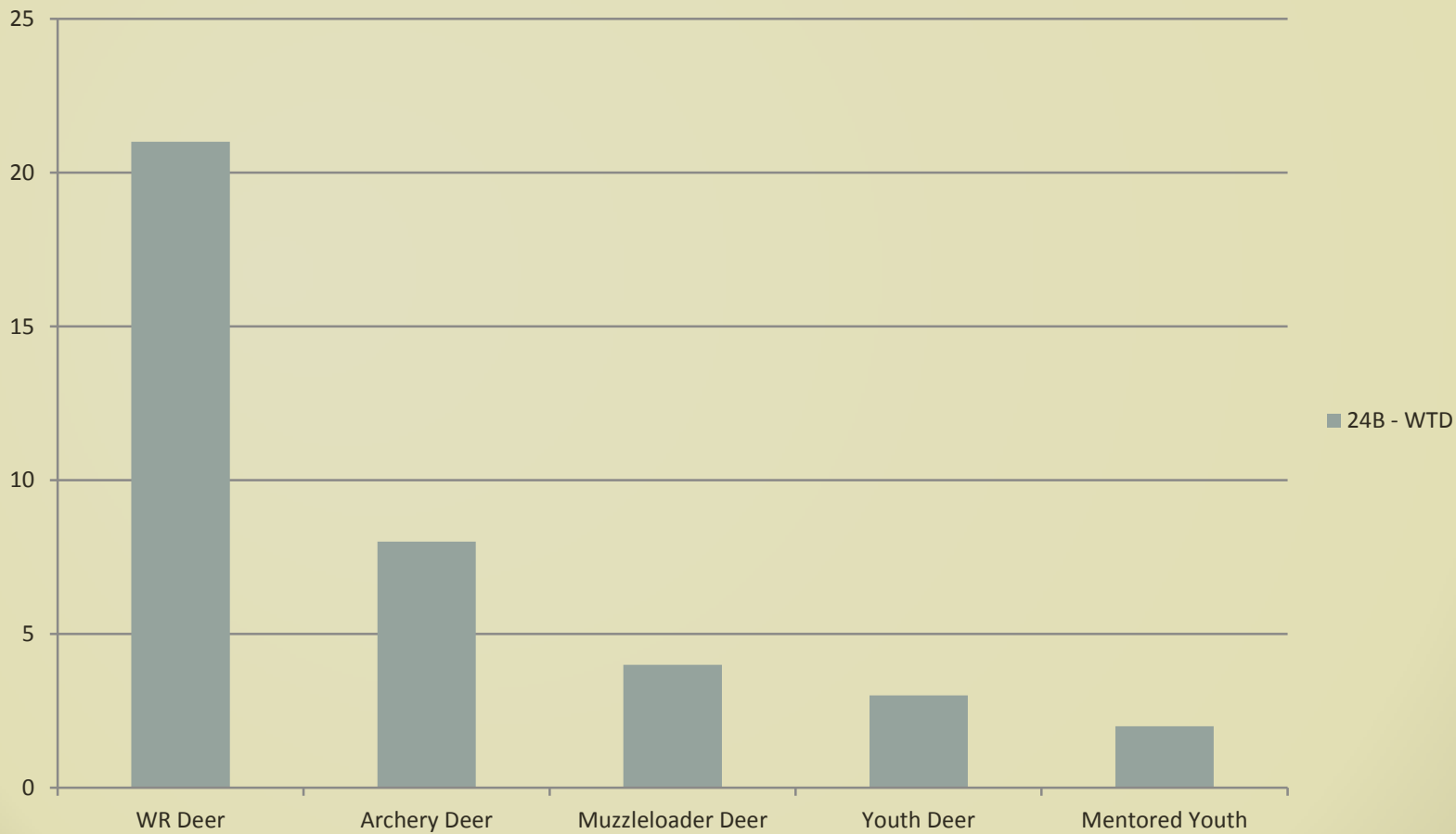
Custer National Forest LAU



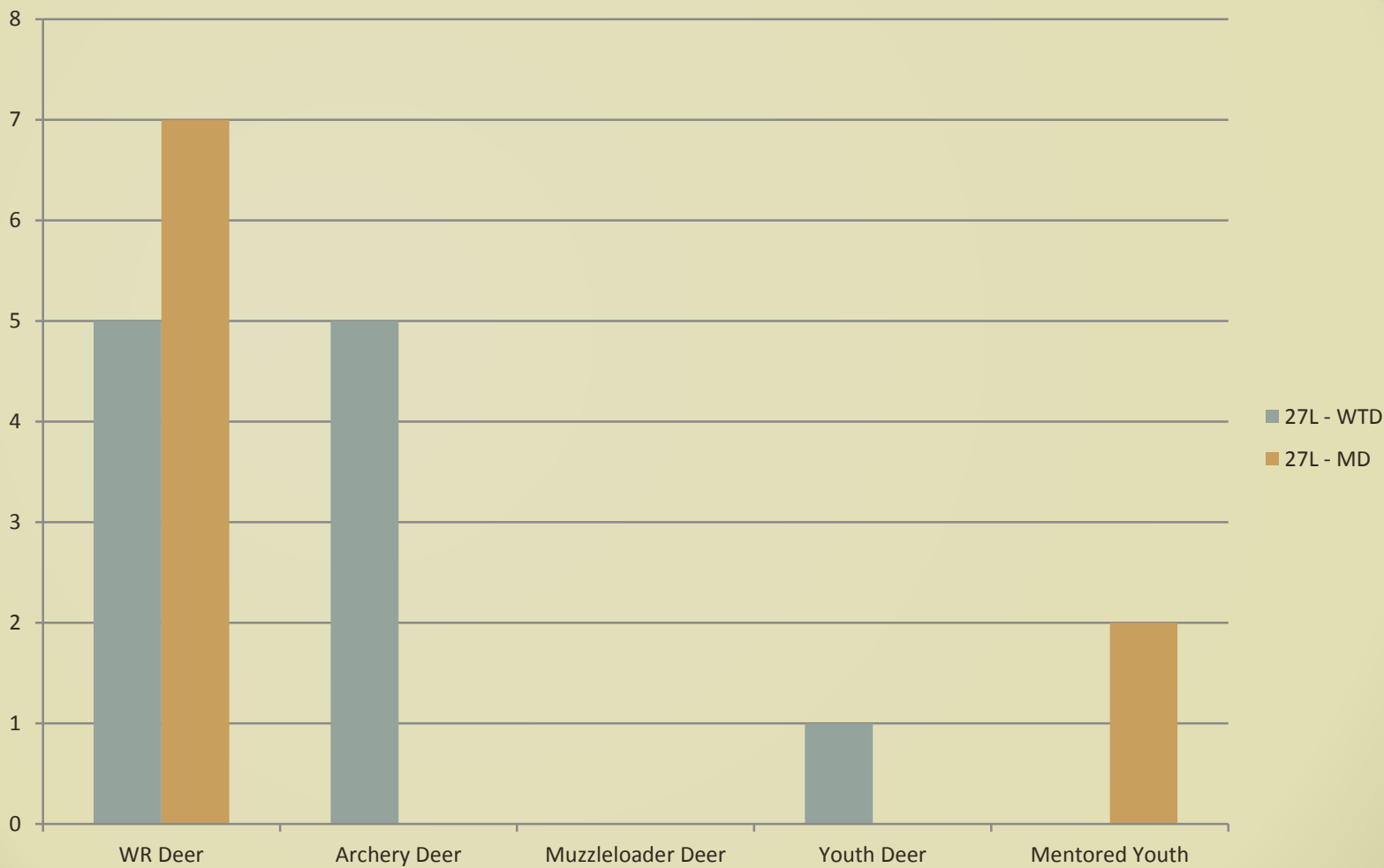
Little Moreau Rec Area



24B - WTD



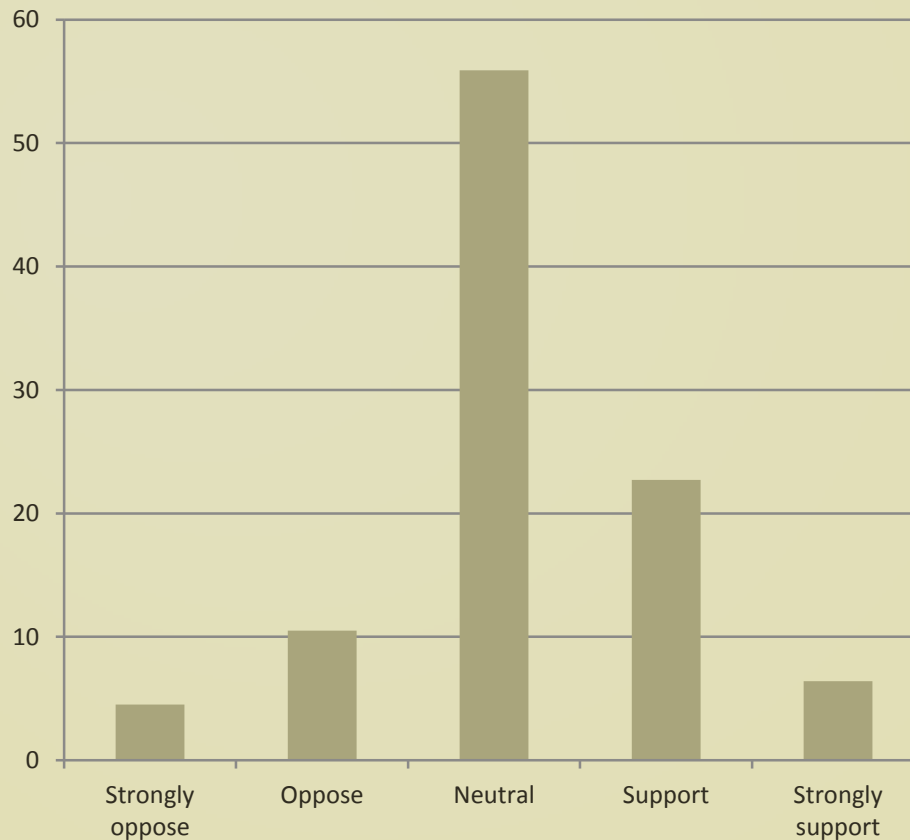
Hill Ranch





Hunter Opinion Survey - LAUs

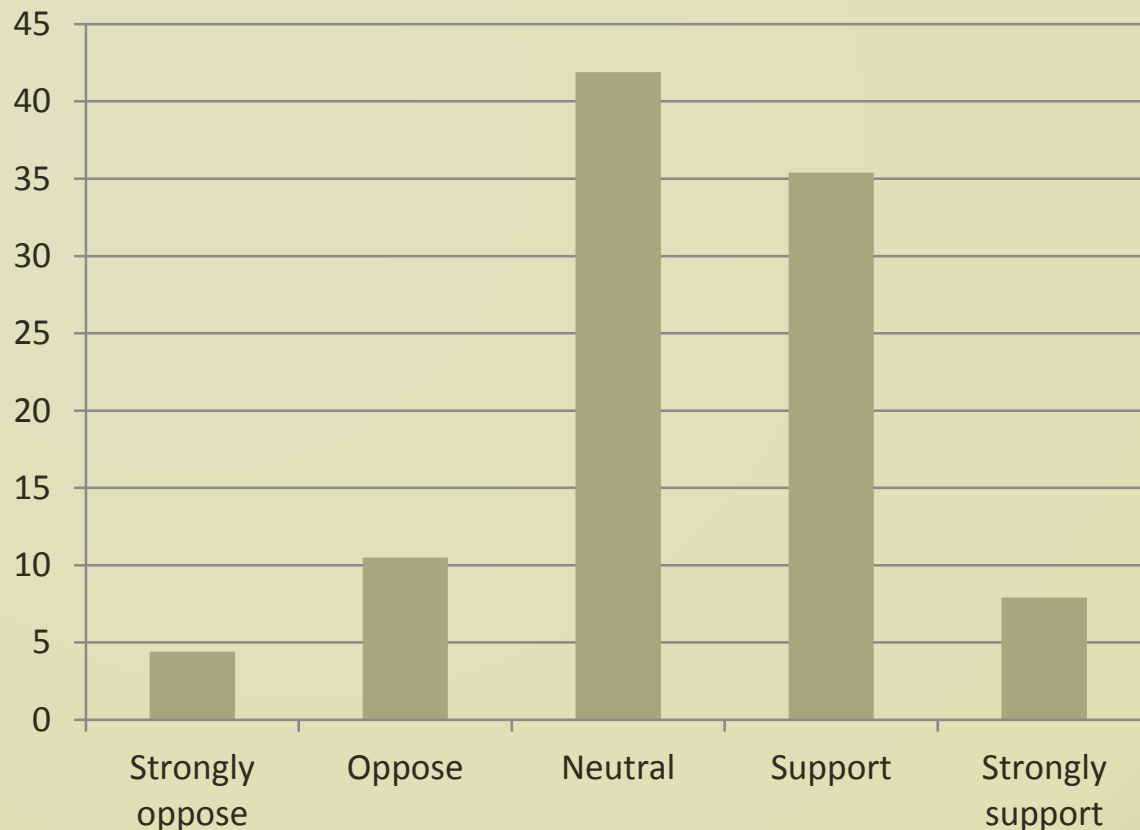
- How strongly do you support or oppose the creation of additional Limited Access Units?



Hunter Opinion Survey - LAUs



- How strongly would you support or oppose further evaluation of alternative licensing concepts that regulate the number of deer hunters on specific areas?





Evaluating Trophy/Quality Management

- Harvest Age Structure
- Buck:doe ratios
- Hunter Density
- Hunter Success and Satisfaction



Raffle and Auction Hunting Licenses



Some Considerations

- Raffle vs. auction
 - Raffle – price and limit per person caps
- How many
- 1 or multiple species
- Private and/or public land
- Weapon type – firearm, archery, muzzleloader, hunter choice
- Season dates – normal or expanded
- Units – limited to certain units, combinations, statewide
- Resident or nonresident
- GFP vs. NGO sponsored
- Expenditure of proceeds
 - Project Advisory Council
 - Research and habitat



Earning Potential for SD?

- Depends on:
 - Auction vs. Raffle
 - Details.....
- Kansas example
 - 2011 deer permits sold \$4,000 - \$6,500 each
 - 2016 starting bid \$7,500
- Nebraska example
 - Deer, Pronghorn, and 2 Turkey combo
 - \$3,000 winning bid in 2012/13
 - \$1,500 winning bid in 2014/15

Earning Potential?



- Montana

- Mule deer
- 1 auction tag

Year	Org	Bid Amount
04	MDF	6,250
05	MDF	6,700
06	MDF	13,000
07	MDF	15,000
08	MDF	13,000
09	MDF	8,500
10	MDF	9,000
11	MDF	18,000
12	MDF	22,500

- Utah

- Antelope Island mule deer
- Winning auction bids last ~5 years - \$160,000, \$310,000, \$305,000, \$390,000, \$410,000



